



2025

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MINNESOTA FFA FOUNDATION

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2025-2026 STATE FFA OFFICERS

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STAND AS ONE

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VISIT US!



THEME

defined



Lauren Stool

PRESIDENT

The theme **STAND AS ONE** is a reminder that FFA is one big family. No matter who we are, where we come from, what we're facing, or where we're going, we all wear the same blue jacket. Your fellow Minnesota FFA members will always be there to cheer you on and support you in everything you do. We are stronger when we **STAND AS ONE**.



Cole Sundeen

TREASURER

STAND AS ONE means to me the unity and strength within the agricultural community. It symbolizes the idea that by coming together, members can achieve more than they could alone. This theme encourages FFA members to support each other in their endeavors whether in leadership, education, or community service.



Emma Braford

VICE PRESIDENT

Just as a tree cannot stand tall and strong without its diverse, interconnected roots, the Minnesota FFA cannot stand as the strong organization that it is without our members who make up our roots. When our members come together from all their unique and diverse backgrounds, we **STAND AS ONE** organization, rich in opportunity and possibility.



Natalie Clemenson

REPORTER

STAND AS ONE encompasses everything that agriculture and education is all about. As agriculturalists and farmers, we work to feed, clothe, and care for those around us as one united force. We all come together to get through the hard times and celebrate the good! Within education we also join together to help ensure the best possible outcomes for our students and grow the leaders of the next generation.



Kaiya Grossman

SECRETARY

In choosing this theme, we aimed to honor the incredible legacy of FFA members and agriculturists who have paved the way for us. **STAND AS ONE** encapsulates our commitment to unity and collaboration, reminding us that regardless of our backgrounds—whether in agriculture or other fields—we must come together to inspire future generations.



Victoria Gunderson

SENTINEL

STAND AS ONE means coming together. Not coming from a traditional agricultural background and pursuing a career in healthcare, I wasn't sure where my place was. But regardless of your background or future, we can all proudly wear the blue jacket and advocate for our future and the industry that feeds the world. The blue jacket is a symbol of advocacy, hard work, passion, and joy.

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR



As a proud former farmer, FFA and 4-H member, and parent and spouse to FFA alumni, my connection to the value of FFA and agriculture runs deep and began early. I now have the privilege of supporting future generations of leaders through my role with the Minnesota FFA Foundation.

FFA provides meaningful experiences to youth across our state, offering a broad range of agricultural education. Personally, opportunities in public speaking, holding office and participating in events not only created lasting friendships and pride in the blue jacket, but also laid the foundation for the confidence, collaboration, and deep-rooted values that are central to my leadership and career today. In college, I continued this passion through my involvement in PAS at the state and national levels. In my career, I see daily the interconnectedness of agriculture, rural communities, and consumers, and I appreciate how FFA brings together students from all backgrounds to showcase the diverse opportunities available in agriculture and related industries.

Our family supports the FFA Foundation because we see the meaningful impact our donations have on the programs and students in FFA. Whether through scholarships, program and teacher support, or event coordination, we are able to directly support students and programs that might otherwise go unserved. We are proud to make a meaningful difference in the future of agriculture, and we encourage you to consider contributing to the Minnesota FFA Foundation.

JENNY DOERING

FFA FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR

**MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL AGRICULTURE
COMPEER FINANCIAL**

July 13, 2025 // **FFA Day with the Twins** // Minneapolis, MN
July 21-24, 2025 // **State Leadership Conference for Chapter Officers** // Hackensack, MN
July 24, 2025 // **Minnesota FFA Foundation Golf Tournament** // Atwater, MN
August 21- September 1, 2025 // **Minnesota State Fair** // St. Paul, MN
August 24, 2025 // **Great Minnesota Give-Together Telethon** // Minnesota State Fairgrounds
August 29-September 1, 2025 // **FFA Encampment at the Minnesota State Fair**
September 18, 2025 // **National Teach Ag Day**
October 15, 2025 // **Blue Jackets – Bright Futures Applications Due**
October 29 - November 1, 2025 // **National FFA Convention** // Indianapolis, IN
December 15, 2025 // **Winter Leadership Summit** // St. Cloud, MN
February 1, 2026 // **Washington Leadership Scholarship Application Due**
February 1, 2026 // **Minnesota FFA Foundation Scholarship Applications Due**
(James Tracy & Thiher Family Scholarships)
March 6 - 7, 2026 // **Minnesota FFA Alumni & Supporters Annual Meeting** // Mankato, MN

Calendar of
EVENTS
9.6-9.15.25

25-26 STATE officers



president

CAMERON ADDINGTON
CANNON FALLS FFA

Share how FFA helped you grow as a person:

My FFA journey is defined by personal growth. As a shy eighth grader, my advisor signed me up for the FFA Creed Speaking Leadership Development event. I was distraught... there was no way I could memorize a five-paragraph speech! However, after committing to learn E.M. Tiffany's words, I was eventually fortunate enough to represent Minnesota in creed speaking on the national level. That experience opened other doors in FFA—officer roles, attending leadership conferences, and even more public speaking contests! The creed was a significant avenue of personal growth for me. Agricultural education and FFA provide students with that same personal growth in so many ways, and I'm thrilled to be a small part of that as a state officer this year.

Reflect on leadership:

A quote by the influential author and speaker John C. Maxwell says that, "The true measure of leadership is influence - nothing more, nothing less." As I reflect, I think about all of the opportunities that Minnesota FFA members will have to lead—or influence—during the coming year. It could be a member in a career development event encouraging their teammates, a regional officer visiting chapters, or students expressing gratitude toward their ag teacher. Every FFA member has opportunities to live out Maxwell's message and positively influence others through their actions. As a state officer, I too hope to positively influence others this year by making connections and helping others achieve their goals.



vice president

PAISLEY VONBERGE
HUTCHINSON FFA

Share how FFA helped you grow as a person:

FFA proved to be my first home as I began my high school career. I had previously attended a school of just 60 students from grades pre-k through 8. When I transitioned to the public high school, it was intimidating. However, by becoming involved in FFA, I was surrounded with a community full of passion, dedication, and resilience. It was in FFA that I found the mentors that have pushed me to be my best self and the friends that have inspired me to live a life full of passion. FFA continues to bless me every time that I zip up my blue jacket.

Reflect on leadership:

In the FFA organization I have had the privilege to serve in many leadership roles at the chapter, region, and, now, state level. Throughout each of these experiences, I have truly learned what it means to be a leader, and if I was to sum it up it would be much less about leadership and much more about servant-ship. Every day we are given the privilege to go serve others with our unique talents, abilities, and stories. Until we are ready to share our true experiences and be vulnerable with those who we connect with, we will never be able to make that ultimate impact.



secretary
DESSA TARNING
DASSEL-COKATO FFA

Share how FFA helped you grow as a person:

FFA has helped me grow as a person because it has provided me with a space to try and fail. However, with the "failure" it has caused me to form a growth mindset, and help me understand that it is okay to be human. When I joined FFA in 7th grade, I had no desire to do an LDE or attempt anything that would put the spotlight on me. Contrastingly, a week into my FFA journey, I was volun-told I'd be on the Ag Issues team. This forced me to try even though I was afraid. FFA has given me opportunity to invest and grow in skills such as communication, public speaking, and problem solving.

Reflect on leadership:

Leadership is influence not authority. Being a leader has nothing to do with the title you may hold. The work you do should be done with good intention instead of doing it because you have to. Leadership is courage and vulnerability. It is important to be aware of yourself and be able to admit when you are wrong. It is important to be able to make tough decisions. Leadership is having a vision and following with an action. We all can dream, but to put dreams into reality is where influence happens. To be a leader you do not need a title, you need a good heart.



Treasurer
HAILEY CHAMBERS
MEDFORD FFA

Share how FFA helped you grow as a person:

FFA is much more than a student-led organization. It is a community of individuals who all share a passion for agriculture. Through various events and conferences, I've strengthened my leadership skills and embraced new growth opportunities. Career development events have refined my employment skills and deepened my understanding of potential career paths. Serving as a region and chapter president boosted my confidence in public speaking and leadership. My supervised agricultural experiences have instilled a personal drive for hard work, responsibility, and success. My time in the blue jacket has been nothing short of inspiring, offering countless opportunities to grow, learn, serve, and lead.

Reflect on leadership:

Leadership is one's ability to guide, inspire, and influence others toward a common goal. To me, leaders must hold an eagerness to support others and always be willing to listen and learn. A great leader doesn't just give orders but empowers others to reach their full potential. Leadership skills can also be grown. I have seen growth in myself as well as others through different trainings and conferences, many being through FFA. True leaders excel at fostering trust, adapting to challenges, and setting an example through actions; these are skills everyone should strive to be able to do. Leadership exists in many forms, but at its core, leadership is about service, vision, and the willingness to uplift others.

STATE officers



reporter

KEELEY RUNGE

ST. JAMES FFA

Share how FFA helped you grow as a person:

FFA has helped me grow as a person by giving me a welcoming space to try new things, connect with new people, and find a community that would support me even after my time in the blue jacket was over. Through my participation in CDEs, LDEs, and SAEs along with the connections I have built with my advisor, alumni and supporters members, and community mentors, I have been able to find my true passion in life and my future career path—teaching high school agricultural education and being an FFA advisor. I hope to one day be able to positively impact my students and community the same way my advisors have for me.

Reflect on leadership:

During my time spent in the blue jacket, I've been privileged to have numerous role models and leaders whom I have looked up to. These individuals, whether they are past state officers, other advisors, older chapter officers, or even the friends I have made, have all shaped the type of leader I have become. The kindness, grace, determination, strength, and empathy that they extended to every individual they encountered changed my life, and during my year as a state officer, I hope to be able to inspire members even a fraction as much as they inspired me.



sentinel

LAUREN HUNT

WILLMAR FFA

Share how FFA helped you grow as a person:

FFA helped me discover where I truly belong. After exploring various sports and organizations without finding the right fit, joining FFA felt like coming home. It reintroduced me to parts of myself I had forgotten—my passion for leadership, my voice, and my confidence. Through hands-on experiences and a supportive community, I found purpose and direction. FFA didn't just offer me a place to grow; it reminded me of who I am and who I can become. It has been the foundation for my personal development and the head start for my future.

Reflect on leadership:

Leadership is about service, not status. As a Minnesota FFA state officer, I want to show an effective leadership means listening first, acting with integrity, and lifting others up. It's not about commanding attention, but creating space for others to grow. Whether mentoring younger members or collaborating with teammates, I've found that humility, empathy, and consistency build trust and inspire action. Leadership is a daily commitment to doing the right thing—even when no one is watching—and to helping others realize their potential. It's a responsibility I carry with gratitude and purpose.



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25-26

Minnesota REGIONAL presidents

The **eight regions** within Minnesota are locally led by regional FFA members, who are responsible for hosting leadership conferences, Career and Leadership Development Events, and other FFA events within their region.

Congratulations to our new
regional presidents:

REGION I	ALLISON SMITH, BARNESVILLE
REGION II	ISABELLE SMITH, BRAINERD
REGION III	BRYNN SABO, ROCORI
REGION IV	LILLIAN THUENTE, ST. PAUL-HIGHLAND PARK
REGION V	AIDYN BRUTGER, EDEN VALLEY WATKINS
REGION VI	LIV VANDERKOOI, WORTHINGTON
REGION VII	LUKE MCCREA, BETHLEHEM ACADEMY
REGION VIII	EDWARD WINTERS, ZUMBROTA-MAZEPPA



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2025 MODELS OF innovation

The **Models of Innovation** program focuses on FFA chapters that are growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture on the local level. The following chapters are this year's Models of Innovation winners in their respective categories.

Sibley East is the **top chapter** winner in the **Strengthening Agriculture** category for their project "Ag Lesson Plans for Daycare and Preschool" and in the **Growing Leaders** category for their project "Mock Car Crash."

In the **Building Communities** category, the **top chapter** is **Sleepy Eye** with their program titled "Fall Pumpkins for Our Seniors."



OUR MISSION

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- Summer Internships
- Dairy Experience and Agricultural Leadership Program
- Princess Kay of the Milky Way Program



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Promo Center Items to Help Share Your Dairy Story

Undeniably Dairy Grants to Promote Dairy in Your Community



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2025 *the* TOP 3 awards

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GLENCOE-SILVER LAKE



PRINCETON



SLEEPY EYE

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SLEEPY EYE



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 Compeer Financial Services, Sun Prairie, WI
 Crystal Farms, Minneapolis
 Northland Ford Dealers, Minneapolis
 Pembina Pipeline Corporation, Calgary, Alberta
 The Toro Company, Bloomington

CHAMPION - \$10,000-\$19,999

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 Agribank, St. Paul
 Jim & Becky Burns, Watertown
 Roy A. Johnson, Maple Grove
 Land O'Lakes, Inc., St. Paul
 Minnesota Corn, Burnsville
 Minnesota Farmers Union Foundation, St. Paul
 University of Minnesota-CFANS, St. Paul

DIAMOND - \$5,000-\$9,999

Advanced Hunter Education Board
 Ag Partners, Goodhue
 AgCentric, Agricultural Center of Excellence, Staples
 Bellmont Partners, Minneapolis
 Bremer Bank, St. Paul
 Broadhead, Minneapolis
 Central Farm Service, Truman
 Hormel Foods Corporation, Austin
 Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association, Burnsville
 Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation, St. Paul
 Minnesota Grain and Feed Association, St. Paul
 Minnesota Pork Board, Mankato
 Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council, Mankato
 Minnesota State Southern Agricultural
 Center of Excellence, North Mankato
 RDO Equipment Co./Ron Offutt Farms, Fargo, ND
 Riverview, LLP, Morris
 Rosen's Diversified, Fairmont

PLATINUM - \$4,000-\$4,999

Bell Bank, Fargo, North Dakota
 Christensen Farms, Sleepy Eye
 Mike & Linda Fiterman Family Foundation, Minneapolis
 Peter Grundman, Minneapolis
 Pioneer, Zumbrota

GOLD - \$3,000- \$3,999

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 BASF Corporation, Clive, IA
 Beck's Hybrids, Atlanta, IN
 BMO Bank, Minneapolis
 Jim & Jane Ertl, Rosemount
 Fagen Farms, Inc., Granite Falls
 Gislason & Hunter LLP, New Ulm
 Duane & Linda Hendricks, Motley
 Midwest Dairy, St. Paul
 Minnesota Touchstone Energy
 MN Veterinary Medical Foundation, South St. Paul
 NextEra Energy Constructors, Saint Paul
 Patterson Foundation, St. Paul
 PIPESTONE, Pipestone
 Ralco, Marshall

Seneca Foods Corporation, Janesville, WI
 Titan Machinery, West Fargo, ND
 Watertown-Mayer FFA Alumni Association
 Ziegler Ag Equipment, Minneapolis
 Zinpro Corporation, Eden Prairie

SILVER - \$2,000-\$2,999

Bard the Cat Charity Fund, Stillwater
 Tim Claus & Louise Anderson, Bloomington
 CoBank, Minneapolis
 Dakota County Elks, MN Lodge 2832, St. Paul
 Jason & Jenny Doering, Mapleton
 Vicky Fick, Lake City
 Greg, Karen & Nick Gosen, Albert Lea
 Mark Jirik, Detroit Lakes
 Midwest Machinery, Sauk Rapids
 Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council, St. Paul
 National Grid Renewables, Minneapolis
 Olmsted-Wabasha Corn & Soybean Growers Association
 Profinium, Mankato
 Ridgewater College, Willmar
 Karen Roker, Bird Island
 Dr. Curtis Youngs, Ames, IA

BRONZE - \$1,000-\$1,999

Alpha Gamma Rho, St. Paul
 AMPI, New Ulm
 Kent & Mary Davis, St. Peter
 DBA Hamm Seeds, Litchfield
 Stephen & Pat Dingels, Redwood Falls
 Ronnie Dvergsten, Thief River Falls
 Form-A-Feed, Stewart
 Glacial Plains Cooperative, Murdock
 Paul & Annette Hansen, Plymouth
 Harvest Bank, Atwater
 Rod & Carol Hebrink, Fort Myers, FL
 Jennie-O Turkey Store, Barron, WI
 John Deere Company, Moline, IL
 Johnson Outdoors, Mankato
 Kibble Equipment, Montevideo
 Dr. Larry Klingbeil, Minnetonka
 Larry & Amanda Konsterlie, Pennock
 Steven & Carolyn Koziolk, Northfield
 Alan & Terri Krysan, Lakeville
 McDonald's Owner/Operators of Minnesota &
 Western Wisconsin
 Charles & Barb Melberg, Hector
 Minnesota Turkey Research & Promotion Council, Buffalo
 Minnesota Twins, Minneapolis
 NAPA Auto Parts, Owatonna
 Ronald & Judy Nelson, Amery, Wisconsin
 North Dakota State College Science, Wahpeton, ND
 Petersen Farms, Murdock
 George & Gail Price Jr., Rochester
 Red River Valley Sugarbeet Education Foundation,
 Fargo, ND
 Charlie & Cara Soukup, Richfield
 South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD
 Travis Stoel, Lake Wilson
 U of M - Dept. of Animal Science, St. Paul
 U of M - Dept. of Forest Resources, St. Paul
 USDA - NRCS, St. Paul
 Mat & Lisa Vaupel, Racine
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MinnesotaCorn

FARMERS To Love Contest



MINNESOTA FARMER WINS NATIONAL CULVER'S CONTEST

WRITTEN BY MOLLY ALBERS, NORTHFIELD FFA // EDITED BY JAELYN HOLZ, NORTHFIELD FFA

The **To Farmers with Love Contest** is an award presented annually by Culver's to deserving farmers across the United States. This year's grand prize winner went to Jeannette Sheehan from Rochester, Minnesota. She received the grand prize of \$5,000 to use on her farm along with an additional \$5,000 to donate to an FFA Chapter of her choice. She selected the Northfield FFA chapter that chartered last year.

Chris Holz and his daughter Jaelyn nominated Jeannette for this award because of the profound impact she has had on their family. Jeannette leases around 25 animals to youth, including Jaelyn of Northfield, in southeast Minnesota to show at their local county fair.

"Jeannette has been so willing to allow these 4-H members, all pretty much from the city, to get a taste of agriculture," said Chris.

The Holzes are just one example of the amazing impact the leasing program has on youth of all ages and backgrounds. Nominating Jeannette was an easy choice for Jaelyn and Chris.

"She has done so much for agriculture by volunteering her time to do everything she can for the future generation," said Jaelyn.

"She expects nothing in return. She's doing this for the future," Jaelyn added.

Jeannette and her husband Robert own and operate Sheeknoll Farms near Rochester, milking 55 cows there plus another 250 cows on a second farmsite with Sheehan family partners and crop farming 900 acres. Sheeknoll Farms show their animals competitively and lease their best animals to 4-H and FFAMembers. For Jeannette, it's not just about the showing.

"These kids are going to be running companies," said Jeannette. "They're going to be farming. They are going to be making laws and rules for us for the future. You want to make sure that they have this experience to see the whole picture."

Now because of the 4-H lease program many of them want to go into an agriculture-related field

The money Jeannette donated to the Northfield FFA will be used for a community service project.

"Jaelyn's passion and pursuit in the dairy industry and heart to give to others is the reason for receiving this grand award," said T.J. Austin, Northfield FFA Chapter advisor. "I am excited to see what she comes up with as a service project for the FFA Chapter. Thank you to Jeannette for thinking of our chapter, and, yet again, continuing to invest in our youth's future!"

For many youth across the Midwest who have had the opportunity to show dairy cattle for the Sheehans, it has been more than just showing dairy cattle. It is about the community in agriculture they have been able to find through it.

The Holz family is just one story of the countless youth she has made an impact on.

Jeannette is one shining volunteer example who invests in our youth and makes agriculture and our communities brighter and better.



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ROSEN'S DIVERSIFIED, INC.

agri-science fair

2024

WINNERS



ANIMAL SYSTEMS

- Div. 1: Samuel Murrell, Braham
- Div. 2: Adele Fank and Ever Godbee, KMS
- Div. 3: Clover Jarvis-Deese, AFSA
- Div. 4: Baylee Staton and Hallie Kobbermann, Benson
- Div. 5: Marin Knott, Tracy Area

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE & NATURAL RESOURCE SYSTEMS

- Div. 2: Kiara Vang and Lovelee Yang, Humboldt
- Div. 3: Kaylin Anderson, AFSA
- Div. 4: Charlie Molenaar and Shane Froehlich, KMS
- Div. 5: Ava Noble, KMS
- Div. 6: Neenah Mork and Tin Than Dar Oo, Humboldt

FOOD PRODUCTS & PROCESSING SYSTEMS

- Div. 1: Clayton Baerthel, AFSA
- Div. 2: Elsa Shaw and Alissa Rudningen, KMS
- Div. 3: Bailey Ohren, KMS
- Div. 4: Owen Joyce and Krishon Sharpe, AFSA
- Div. 5: Cayden Urmann, AFSA
- Div. 6: Courtney Ferholz and Ellie Bestge, KMS

PLANT SYSTEMS

- Div. 1: Zinedine Tlusty, AFSA
- Div. 2: Natalie Fulmer and Karina Martinez, Sleepy Eye
- Div. 3: Jordan Thao, AFSA
- Div. 4: Macee Duerksen and Liliana Quade, Windom
- Div. 5: Alexandria Confer, Sleepy Eye
- Div. 6: Emily Flanagan and Charlotte Zinke, Farmington

POWER, STRUCTURAL & TECHNICAL SYSTEMS

- Div. 1: Austin Martin, AFSA
- Div. 2: Cabriel Camara and Benjamin Eck, AFSA
- Div. 3: Joza Tlusty, Academy for Sciences and Agriculture
- Div. 4: Logan Cain and Josiah Scholtens, AFSA
- Div. 5: Abraham Lund, AFSA

SOCIAL SYSTEMS

- Div. 1: Stella Schafer, AFSA
- Div. 2: Sydney Carlson and Alaina Rudningen, KMS
- Div. 4: Grant Slininger and Ava Cox, Rockford
- Div. 6: Vu Co and Jeremey Tyler-Trojanowski, AFSA

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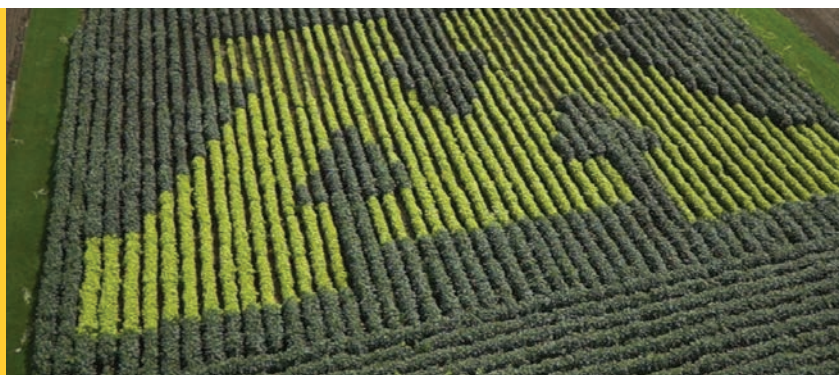
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AG EDUCATION

teacher spotlight

FROM RELUCTANT STUDENT TO PASSIONATE EDUCATOR: ONE AG TEACHER'S JOURNEY

Rachel Moe // Agricultural Education Instructor, Red Rock Central

For many **agricultural education instructors**, the road to the classroom begins on a farm or in an FFA jacket. But for this educator, it started with resistance—and a little parental push.

"I grew up on a corn and soybean farm, and we've since added beef cattle," Rachel Moe, an agricultural education instructor at Red Rock Central, said. "But when it came time to sign up for ag classes in high school, I wanted no part of it."

Despite her roots in agriculture, ag class wasn't on her radar—until her parents and a determined ag teacher, Nate Thompson, made the decision for her.

"They basically said, 'You're doing this,' and signed me up for introduction to ag."



What started as a reluctant placement turned into a passion.

As she moved through high school, specialized courses and involvement in FFA and 4-H helped her discover not just a love for agriculture, but also a calling to teach.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher, but it was through those organizations that I realized agricultural education was the right fit," Rachel said.

She pursued her degree at South Dakota State University and now teaches in a single-teacher program—an environment full of rewards and challenges.

"The most rewarding part of my job is seeing students have those 'aha' moments—especially the tough ones. I've had seniors come up before graduation to say thank you, and I think back to who they were in 8th or 9th grade, and it's incredible to see how far they've come," she said.

Those connections continue long after graduation. "I love seeing where life takes them—on social media or in person. Whether they go into agriculture or not, knowing they found something meaningful in my classroom is the best reward," she said.

But the job isn't without its challenges.

"The hardest part is time—balancing everything in a one-teacher program," she said. "If it's ag or FFA-related, it comes to me. There are only so many hours in the day."

Support has made a difference. Early in her career, she leaned on veteran teachers, conferences, and state networks.

"There is real value in attending conferences and workshops that are offered at the state level. These offer not only content resources that are needed in the classroom, but also you are able to connect with teachers from across the state

who are very like minded. Teachers that have probably been in many of the same situations and can help along the way," she said.

"The Ag Teacher Network is really something special. I have had administrators say about how they thought it cool to see the connections we have and teachers supporting each other. During the first few years, I also leaned on mentors locally as well. Every school is different so learning the systems at each place can take time to adjust."

Her advice for those considering this path?
"If you want something fast-paced where no two days are the same, and you want to inspire kids, go for it. You never know—ag might not be in your plans now, but one day you might be an ag teacher yourself."



Join the more than 340 agricultural education teachers across Minnesota as they provide life-changing opportunities for their students. Learn more at teachagmn.org.



2025 Minnesota TEACH AG ED

STUDENTS SIGN INTENTIONS TO TEACH AGRICULTURE

The following students "signed" their intentions to pursue a degree in agricultural education and join this rewarding career. Students were joined by Minnesota Education Commissioner Willie Jette and Nikki Flaen MAAE President. have instructed, coached and mentored them. The "Teach Ag" initiative works to address the shortage of agriculture, food, and natural resource educators across the state. The Minnesota Agricultural Education and Leadership Council spearheads the effort.

Briley Heng
Sidney Erickson
Madison Pesek
Allie Cervantes*
Megan Beranek
Carlie Sayer*
Joscolen Gerhardt
Holly Hughes
Grace Meidinger
Keeley Runge
Emma Salisbury
Jaclyn Jensen

Olivia Nelson
Spencer Hed
Vanessa Haataja
Gretta Kasper
Otto Lehmann
Carley Sip*
Cole Sundeen
Riley Joyer
Ella Barthel
Allysen Belsheim

*Not pictured

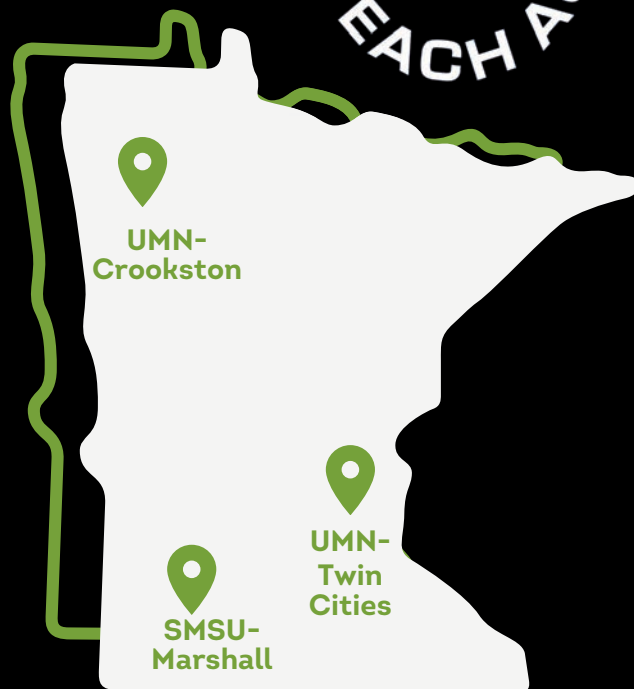
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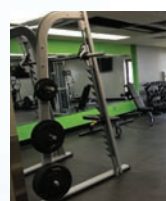


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2025

STATE STAR

finalists



MINNESOTA FFA STAR FARMER

Region I	Billy Roesch, <i>Ada-Borup-West</i>
Region II	Jonathan Walzak, <i>Grand Rapids</i>
Region III	Bryce Frericks, <i>Albany*</i>
Region IV	Grace Bayerl, <i>Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted</i>
Region V	Abby Holtkamp, <i>Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg*</i>
Region VI	McKade Tewes, Jackson County Central*+
Region VII	Abby Willegal, <i>Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop</i>
Region VIII	Tyler Steele, <i>Lewiston-Altura*</i>

MINNESOTA FFA STAR IN AGRIBUSINESS

Region I	Allison Smith, <i>Barnesville</i>
Region II	Leya Anderson, <i>Menahga</i>
Region III	Max Heieie, <i>Belgrade-Broten-Elrosa</i>
Region IV	Adreanna Kaas, <i>Milaca*</i>
Region V	Ole Rogness, <i>Litchfield*</i>
Region VI	Jilian Schoenfeld, Russel-Tyler-Ruthron*+
Region VII	Eden Messerli, <i>Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop*</i>

MINNESOTA FFA STAR IN PRODUCTION PLACEMENT

Region I	Sarah Arends, <i>Ada-Borup-West*</i>
Region II	Alfred Necas, <i>Grand Rapids</i>
Region III	Aiden Rademacher, <i>Belgrade-Broten-Elrosa</i>
Region IV	Mason Glessing, <i>Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted</i>
Region V	Derik Johnson, <i>Willmar*</i>
Region VI	Samantha Henning, <i>Jackson County Central*</i>
Region VII	William Bastain, Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop*+
Region VIII	Brianna Brogan, <i>St. Charles</i>

MINNESOTA FFA STAR IN AGRICULTURE, FOOD & NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES

Region II	Chris Schafer, <i>Grand Rapids *</i>
Region VI	Marin Knott, Tracy Area*+

*Indicates state finalist

+Indicates state winner

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2025

STATE stars

Every year, four Minnesota FFA members were named as the organization's top achievers at the Minnesota FFA Convention. These recognitions, known as the **Star Awards**, are presented annually to the top individuals from four different Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) areas and are sponsored by Compeer Financial. **The Star Awards program recognizes members for their outstanding achievement and dedication to their SAEs.** Congratulations to this year's recipients.



state star

FARMER

MCKADE TEWES

JACKSON COUNTY CENTRAL FFA

McKade Tewes from the Jackson County Central FFA has a vital role in his family farm, Tewes Cattle Company, where he purchases cattle and embryos to develop his own show herd in addition to daily chores, administering medications, and sales of cattle. Tewes plans on becoming an embryologist within livestock genetics.



state star

STAR IN

AGRICULTURE, FOOD &
NATURAL RESOURCE
SCIENCES

MARIN KNOTT

TRACY AREA FFA

Marin Knott from the Tracy Area FFA has worked with swine nutritionists to create trials to be run in research facilities since 2022, assisting with transportation, weighting and scoring hogs' fecal matter as they transition to new feeds. The greatest challenge Knott overcame in her studies was adjusting to varying numbers of gilt litter pigs, allowing her the opportunity to approach the study differently.

DID YOU KNOW...

The Minnesota FFA State Stars is a recognition program that honors exceptional FFA members who have demonstrated outstanding agricultural skills and leadership through their Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE).



state star

AGRIBUSINESS

**JILIAN
SCHOENFELD**

RUSSELL-TYLER-RUTHTON FFA

Jilian Schoenfeld from the Russell-Tyler-Ruthton FFA has worked at Western Veterinary Clinic as an assistant veterinary technician since 2022, assisting with daily clinic operations, running lab diagnostics and traveling with veterinary staff on emergency calls.



state star

AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION PLACEMENT

WILLIAM BASTIAN

GIBBON-FAIRFAX-WINTHROP FFA

William Bastian from the Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop FFA has worked at Bastian Dairy milking cows since 2019, where he also hauls silage wagons, spreads manure and grinds feed rations for heifers. Bastian recognizes the importance of hard work and the value of family throughout his experience on the family dairy farm.

These four **Star Awards** recognize outstanding achievement, active FFA participation, and scholastic record.

THIHER FAMILY

establishes a scholarship

THIHER FAMILY ESTABLISHES MINNESOTA FFA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

A new scholarship was recently announced by the Minnesota FFA Foundation. For the first time, the Jim and Donna Thiher Scholarship was awarded to two students during the Minnesota State FFA Convention. Each scholarship is \$2,500 and is renewable.

Jim and Donna Thiher's journey toward establishing a scholarship fund for FFA members with the Minnesota FFA Foundation is one rooted deeply in their own experiences with education—and in their profound dedication to giving back.

While Donna originally was from Australia and was the first in her family to attend college, Jim grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where his parents placed a high value on higher education. For both Donna and Jim, the transformative power of education was clear. After earning his degree from Iowa State University, Jim was first as a software engineer and ultimately worked as a financial advisor and portfolio manager.

"I have always believed that education is the catalyst for social mobility and a tool for both personal advancement and community betterment,"

said Jim. "I've also believed that when you see people in your community in need, help them. If you can't do everything, don't let that prevent you from doing what you can."

The Thihers also firmly believed in a core principle: those who succeed have an obligation to give back. As their involvement with the

Minnesota FFA Foundation deepened, they saw an even greater opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of young people, particularly those from farm families, who might otherwise be unable to fully benefit from continuing their education after high school.

When the idea of creating a dedicated scholarship for FFA members formed, Donna and Jim found working with the Minnesota FFA Foundation to be simple and rewarding.

"The Minnesota FFA Foundation had a system in place that made the entire process straightforward and seamless," said Donna.

The Foundation's structure gave them confidence that their contribution would be managed well and would directly benefit deserving students.

The Thihers were not only able to help reduce the burden of college debt for FFA members, but also to ensure their support would ripple out into the broader community, creating a legacy that encourages further giving and service.

For Donna and Jim, partnering with the Minnesota FFA Foundation wasn't just easy—it was a natural extension of their values.

"It is about living out the 'it takes a village' philosophy," said the Thihers. "Doing what we could to uplift others, and believing that each act of service, no matter how small, has the power to change lives for the better."

We want to thank the Thihers for their pledge to invest in the future education of Minnesota FFA members.

If you are interested in learning more about the Minnesota FFA Foundation, including how you can give back, go to mnffaoundation.org.





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AG COMMUNICATIONS

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Individual: Madison Sieve, Worthington
Sponsor: Steve and Carolyn Koziolek

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Team: Litchfield
Sponsor: Syngenta

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

Team: Princeton
Individual: Alfred Necas, Grand Rapids
Sponsor: Kibble Equipment and Midwest Machinery

AGRONOMY

Team: Maple River
Individual: Noah Sevvick, Maple River
Sponsor: Minnesota Soybean Council

AGRICULTURAL SALES

Team: Windom
Individual: Claire Vee, Windom
Sponsor: Crystal Farms

BEST INFORMED GREENHAND

Team: Glencoe-Silver Lake
Individual: Abygail Smith, Glencoe-Silver Lake
Sponsor: Dr. Curtis Youngs

COMPANION ANIMAL SCIENCE

Team: Fillmore Central
Individual: Charity Kingsley, Fillmore Central
Sponsor: Minnesota Veterinary Medical Science Foundation

CONDUCT OF CHAPTER MEETINGS

Team: Dassel-Cokato
Sponsor: Dr. Curtis Youngs

CREED SPEAKING

Individual: Katelyn Runge, St. James
Sponsor: Paul Hansen family

CREED SPEAKING, SPANISH

Individual: Adriana Orozco, Highland Park
Sponsor: Minnesota FFA Foundation

DAIRY CATTLE EVALUATION

Team: St. Charles
Individual: Monika Frericks, Melrose
Sponsor: AMPI

DISCUSSION MEET

Individual: Abby Bauer, Medford
Sponsor: Minnesota Farm Bureau

EMPLOYMENT SKILLS

Individual: Taylor Berkner, Sleepy Eye
Sponsor: National Grid Renewables

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

Individual: Luke McCrea, Bethlehem Academy
Sponsor: Minnesota Farm Bureau

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Team: Jackson County Central
Individual: Madison Groth, Ulen-Hitterdal
Sponsor: John Deere Company

FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Team: Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted
Individual: Calvin Dial, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted
Sponsor: George and Mary Peichel

FLORICULTURE

Team: Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted
Individual: Gabby Eppler, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted
Sponsor: Bachman's

FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Team: Dassel-Cokato
Individual: Elaina Fink, Kimball
Sponsor: Midwest Dairy Association

FORESTRY

Team: Grand Rapids
Individual: Andrew Mutchler, Grand Rapids
Sponsor: University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources

HORSE EVALUATION

Team: Grand Rapids
Individual: Michele Reynolds, Princeton
Sponsor: Roy A. Johnson

LIVESTOCK EVALUATION

Team: Randolph
Individual: Wyatt Herman, Randolph
Sponsor: Central Livestock Association

MARKETING PLAN

Team: Buffalo
Sponsor: Red River Farm Network

MEATS EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Team: Pipestone
Individual: Teegan Fiene, Lakeview
Sponsor: Blondies Butcher Shop

MILK QUALITY AND PRODUCTS

Team: ROCORI
Individual: Maddie Klevay, St. Paul - Highland Park
Sponsor: South Dakota State University Department of Dairy and Food Science

NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE

Team: Maple River
Individual: Heidi Zimmerman, Staples-Motley
Sponsor: Bailey Nurseries

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Team: Dassel-Cokato
Sponsor: Kevin and the late Nancy Dahlman

POULTRY EVALUATION

Team: Tracy Area
Individual: Annabel Coudron, Marshall
Sponsor: Minnesota Turkey Research and Promotion Council

PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING

Individual: Lilly Kallevig, Sleep Eye
Sponsor: Robin E. and Lori Ann Kinney

SOILS

Team: Maple River
Individual: Silas Price, Maple River
Sponsor: CF Industries Foundation

TALENT

Individual: Katelyn White, Stillwater
Sponsor: Ruth Meirick



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MONTICELLO *brings back FFA*

CHAPTER IS ONE OF FOUR NEW CHARTERS

In Monticello, an FFA chapter has been reborn.

Having disappeared in the 80s, the chapter is among four that received their charters at the 2025 State FFA Convention.

The other chartering chapters were **Hope Lutheran FFA** in Winona, **Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton FFA** and **Hendricks FFA**.

It was the effort of students like seniors John Payne, Lea Hanson and Elliot Sala that led the Monticello district to allocate a half-time teacher and several agriculture, food and natural resource classes in the 2024-2025 school year. Plans are in place for a full-time teaching and advising position next fall.

The man filling the position, Jacob Wilts, graduated from Monticello High School during the time FFA did not exist there. He moved from the Buffalo, Minnesota, school district to take the reins of the new chapter.

"This whole senior class (of FFA members) had been asking why we couldn't have FFA," Wilts said. "They made the case that if the school wanted something to prepare students for real life, FFA was it."

Payne, the chapter president, said he was motivated to push for the new opportunity after hearing the school board was thinking about the possibility of adding AFNR classes and FFA. It wasn't long before he was leading the chapter.

"None of us (students) really knew what we were doing, but we made it work," he said.

Hanson, the chapter vice president, wanted to earn a high school letter. FFA provided her that opportunity.

FFA meant Sala, the chapter treasurer, could do livestock judging, which earned him a trip to State Convention. His team was one of six from the chapter that qualified for state Career Development Event competition.

The Monticello chapter already has an active alumni group headed by Pete Eiden, whose daughter was advised by Wilts during his Buffalo employment.

"(Jacob) asked me just after he was hired whether I would come on board," Eiden said. "I'm very happy I did. The support from the community, parents and past FFA members is just phenomenal."

"The hunger for ag education in Monticello was very, very strong—both from the students and the past members," he added.

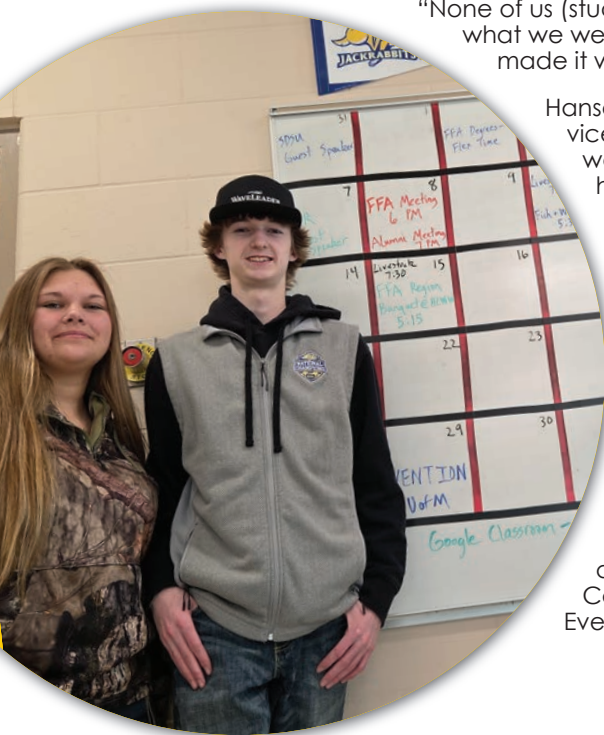


Wilts and Eiden are excited by the success of the chapter's first year.

"The fact that we have 25 or 30 active members, and we did it in six months is just unbelievable," Wilts said. "And we have lots of room for growth."

That growth may come from recruiting by those senior FFA members. Open enrollment from neighboring districts also looks promising.

Payne, Hanson and Sala are headed off to college soon—Hanson to Montana for equine studies, Sala to South Dakota State University for animal science and Payne to Lake Superior College for aviation—with their FFA experience to help them succeed in their future endeavors.



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- Sustainable Systems Management
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PROFICIENCY awards



Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAEs) Proficiency awards were given to outstanding members in the following categories.

AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS

Olivia Vorpapel
Southland
The Farmer

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Keely Jean Runge
St. James
Jim Ertl Fund

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS DESIGN & FABRICATION

Allison Van Nурden
New London-Spicer
John Deere Company

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS REPAIR & MAINTENANCE (PLC)

Logan Ludewig
Sleepy Eye
Lynnes Welding Training

AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING

Adreanna Kaas
Milaca
CHS Foundation

AGRICULTURAL SALES (ENT)

CJ Schumann
United South Central
Bremer Bank

AGRICULTURAL SALES (PLC)

Mckenzie Levos
St. Clair
Peterson Farms Seed

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Brynn Hoffbeck
Cedar Mountain
NAPA

AGRISCIENCE RESEARCH, ANIMAL SYSTEMS

Courtney Fernholz
Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg
U of M Department of Animal Science

AGRISCIENCE RESEARCH, PLANT SYSTEMS

Grace Sullivan
Cedar Mountain
Minnesota Soybean Council

BEEF PRODUCTION (ENT)

McKade Tewes
Jackson County Central
Greg, Karen and Nick Gosen

BEEF PRODUCTION (PLC)

Abby Niewind
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Kamrie Mauer
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Eden Valley-Watkins
Midwest Dairy Association

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DIVERSIFIED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Jillian Schoenfeld
Russell-Tyler-Ruthon
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES & NATURAL RESOURCES

Andrew Schmitz
Eden Valley-Watkins
Johnson Outdoors

EQUINE SCIENCE (ENT)

Morgan Kodet
Redwood Valley
Zinpro

EQUINE SCIENCE (PLC)

Addison Sullivan
Cedar Mountain
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation

FIBER & OIL CROP PRODUCTION

Brok Roggatz
Tracy Area
Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council

FOOD SERVICE

Emma Salisbury
Glencoe-Silver Lake
Land O'Lakes

FORAGE PRODUCTION

Kody Tollefsrud
Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg
Pioneer

FRUIT PRODUCTION

Cameron Addington
Cannon Falls
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GOAT PRODUCTION

Grace Bayer
Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation

GRAIN PRODUCTION

Hudson Garrioch
Cedar Mountain
Pioneer

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Anna Sievert
Glencoe-Silver Lake
AgriBank

NURSERY OPERATIONS

Ethan Pfau
Farmington
Vermeer Sales and Service

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Eden Messerli
Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop
Northland Ford Dealers

POULTRY PRODUCTION

Abby Weitalla
Holdingford
U of M Department of Animal Science

SERVICE LEARNING

Aidan Guetter
Cedar Mountain
Mary Buschette and Mike Balek

SHEEP PRODUCTION

Henry Lemke
Eden Valley-Watkins
James E. and Nancy L. Youngs Proficiency Fund

SMALL ANIMAL PRODUCTION & CARE

Claire Brambrink
Ulen-Hitterdal
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation

SPECIALTY ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Zoe Dockter
Lac qui Parle Valley
Central Farm Services

SWINE PRODUCTION (ENT)

Macy Sonnek
United South Central
Christensen Farms

SWINE PRODUCTION (PLC)

Caden Lodermeier
Goodhue
Christensen Farms

TURF GRASS MANAGEMENT

Leya Anderson
Menahga
Golf Course Superintendent Association of America Minnesota Chapter

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Taylor Berkner
Sleepy Eye
AgCountry Farm Credit Services

VETERINARY SCIENCE

Abby Bauer
Medford
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation

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Aaron Lorenz
(507) 525-8425



2025 MEDIA award

For the Foundation to be effective in its mission, individuals and businesses need to understand how FFA and agriculture, food, and natural resources education help to develop leaders. We could not do this without the support of our friends in the media.

This year's Minnesota FFA Foundation Media Award recipient is **Sherry Newell**.

Sherry was recognized for her countless hours helping to share Minnesota FFA's story across the state and in neighboring states. In addition to serving as an adult mentor for the state FFA Convention communications team for many years, Sherry also helps as a coach and a mentor to local FFA members and is a contributing writer for the *Dairy Star*. Her mentorship and ability to adapt is what truly helps elevate Minnesota FFA.

"There is such a great story to tell with every FFA chapter and student," Newell said. "Every one is a little different, which is part of what makes those stories fun to tell."

Thank you Sherry for bringing your experience and talent to support Minnesota FFA and its members.

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25th 1999-2000 ANNIVERSARY Team

REMINISCING & CATCHING UP: THE 1999-2000 FFA STATE OFFICERS CHECK IN

BY LAURA COLE, THE LAND STAFF WRITER

Thank you to *The Land* for allowing us to use an abbreviated version of this article.



RICHARD PRESTEGARD

BLUE EARTH FFA // BLUE EARTH

Growing up a farm kid, Richard Prestegard had a natural inclination to take agriculture classes. As it happened, a new FFA advisor, Mr. Brent Schimek, arrived at about the same time Prestegard became an ag student, proving beneficial to his FFA journey. Richard Prestegard credits FFA advisor Mr. Schimek for his successful FFA journey. As state president, he fondly remembers traveling to Washington D.C., running camps, and working with an excellent team while attending Iowa State University. He participated in livestock judging competitions and held regional leadership roles before becoming state president.

After graduating with an ag business degree, Richard returned to his family's corn and soybean farm near Blue Earth, Minnesota, where he also operates a truck retail business. Now married with three sons, he watches his children begin their own FFA journeys.

TAMMY (GILLAND) MEYER

CEDAR MOUNTAIN FFA // SISSETON, SD

As FFA state vice president, Tammy Meyer recalls her unique officer team being geographically dispersed across different colleges. Her passion for FFA began reading *New Horizons* magazine through her brother's membership. A transformative experience came when her ag communications proficiency application was strategically delayed, ultimately leading to national recognition.

After studying ag education at South Dakota State University, Tammy taught in South Dakota before becoming a principal and now serves as Sisseton school district superintendent. Meyer shared she relies heavily on the training and experiences she received as a state FFA officer. The leaders throughout the FFA organization have inspired Meyer in her own career path, seeking to ensure staff and students have the support needed to be successful. She and husband Andy operate a corn, soybean, and feeder cattle farm while raising three children, including daughter Kate who was recently elected South Dakota State FFA Secretary.



TRISTA (COLBENSON) BARKA

RUSHFORD-PETERSON FFA // SLEEPY EYE

As state FFA secretary, Trista Barka cherishes memories of helping shy campers become engaged participants. Barka noted her fellow state officers were all very passionate about agriculture and cared about helping others, too. She recalled times when an individual at camp didn't initially join a social activity, but an officer would make the difference simply by having a conversation with them. Coming from a dairy farming background with an uncle as ag instructor, FFA participation felt natural. She recalls navigating to chapter events using paper maps and taking her first flight to the National Convention in Louisville.

After studying at the University of Minnesota, Trista worked in ag sales, insurance, and chamber of commerce leadership. Now living in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, with husband Adam and three daughters, she works as a school paraprofessional after years as a stay-at-home mom.



HECTOR MATTHYS

COTTONWOOD FFA // LAKEVIEW

Looking back on his FFA path, Hector Matthys sees the enormous amount of experiences he received through the organization. An early FFA memory for him was attending the State Greenhand Leadership Conference. While he noted some students had a built-in network by attending with others they already knew, Hector was the only student from his chapter, which caused him to be a bit reserved. He fondly remembers connecting with students statewide at leadership conferences. His memorable adventures included an impromptu metro trip to an unsafe D.C. neighborhood with fellow officer Richard Prestegard and earning a Costa Rica trip through crop production work.

After studying agricultural engineering at NDSU, Matthys now balances his Caterpillar career with farming in Minnesota, where he lives with wife Heidi and their four children.



MANDY (KIDROWSKI) STROM

WILLMAR FFA // BELGRADE

As a state FFA officer, Mandy remembers her team effectively collaborating across four states using email during their "new era of excellence" themed convention.

She followed her cousins' footsteps into state officer positions. From the get-go, Strom was active in her chapter. She became the regional Greenhand and took on an officer role. Mandy participated in agricultural issues competitions nationally and traveled to Australia through an FFA exchange program.

The leadership skills developed through FFA were vital when managing her father's business during his illness. Today, Strom balances her consulting business, working on Walmart's leadership team, pursuing Spanish degrees, and raising four children with husband Michael in central Minnesota.



JUSTIN LESSMAN

TRACY-MILROY FFA // JACKSON

Justin recalls the terror of running for office transforming into joy when his position was announced, especially meaningful as fellow Tracy chapter member Kelly Schmidt had held the same role previously.

He fondly remembers his officer team's remarkable autonomy in planning major events like State Convention under minimal adult supervision. Lessman was a member of the livestock judging team and also held officer roles within the chapter. He served as a regional vice president his senior year.

Lessman attended South Dakota State University with a major in agricultural journalism. Now publisher and editor of a newspaper group in Jackson, Minnesota, and president of the Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lessman lives with high school sweetheart Amber and their three children, including son Caledon who received his state FFA degree this year.



The Minnesota FFA state officer 25th Anniversary team served 1999-2000. Pictured left to right Richard Prestegard, president; Tammy (Meyer) Gilland, vice president; Trista (Colbenson) Barka, secretary; Hector Matthys, treasurer; Mandy (Kidrowski) Strom, reporter; and Justin Lessman, sentinel.

View the full story about our 25th anniversary team in *The Land* at bit.ly/mnffa25team.

TODAY'S LEARNERS ARE TOMORROW'S LEADERS.

Each generation of agricultural leaders must be prepared for lifelong success. That's why the CHS Foundation proudly supports high-impact youth leadership programs like FFA. And why we help cultivate learning and career opportunities through university initiatives across the country. We believe in the power of tomorrow, and it all starts with advancing innovation today.

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HALL OF FAME

inductees

Started in 2004, the **Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame** is a collaborative effort between the Minnesota FFA Association, Minnesota FFA Alumni & Supporters, and Minnesota FFA Foundation. A selection committee consisting of FFA members, alumni, agricultural educators and foundation representatives select the final inductees. The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have been influential and supportive of Minnesota FFA and who have demonstrated a high level of service and longstanding commitment to agriculture, agribusiness, and/or education in agriculture.



LYNN KETELSEN
OWATONNA, MN

- Served as a farm broadcaster with the Linder Farm Network for 45 years, amplifying FFA's message across Minnesota.
- Broadcasted live from major FFA events, including the Minnesota State Fair and state/national conventions, highlighting FFA student achievements.
- Regularly featured FFA stories, helping promote agriculture and leadership opportunities for youth.
- Recipient of the Honorary American FFA Degree and numerous local FFA chapter awards.



A.J. DUERR
MENDOTA HEIGHTS, MN

- Advocated for Agriculture Education and FFA at the Minnesota State Capitol for over 11 years, securing funding impacting 40,000+ students in 210+ schools annually.
- Instrumental in passing the Minnesota agricultural license plate law, benefiting agricultural education programs statewide.
- Key supporter behind FFA Day at the Capitol and ongoing funding for MN Ag Education Leadership Council (MAELC) and Farm Business Management programs.
- Generously sponsors the annual Minnesota FFA Foundation Golf Tournament and received the FFA Honorary State Degree in 2021.



SARAH KUSCHEL
SEBEKA, MN

- Lifelong FFA advocate: former member, officer, and American FFA Degree recipient, now a volunteer assistant advisor for Sebekka FFA.
- Supports Region 2 officer team and serves as secretary for Sebekka FFA Alumni and Friends, raising over \$10,000 for scholarships.
- Mentors Greenhand members and state officers, fostering the next generation of FFA leaders.
- Celebrates a family legacy in FFA, sharing the experience with her father (a Hall of Fame inductee), husband, and children.



Take a look at who's in the Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame.



SHAWN LINDER
GRAND RAPIDS, MN

- Built a highly successful FFA chapter as an agriculture educator over 22 years, producing 23 state Career Development Event championship teams and 17 individual state champions.
- Guided students to eight top-five and 16 top-ten national CDE team finishes, plus numerous state and regional officer positions.
- Prioritizes relationship-building with students, parents, and the community, considering it his greatest accomplishment.
- Recognized for his dedication and mentorship, inspired by the support of his family and fellow ag teachers.



DR. AMY SMITH
ROCKFORD, MN

- Former Iowa FFA member and state officer; now associate professor of agriculture education at the University of Minnesota.
- Major advocate for FFA involvement on campus, engaging university administration and departments in key FFA events.
- Mentors FFA state officers and supports their academic needs during their year of service.
- Leads teacher preparation and induction programs, shaping the next generation of agricultural educators in Minnesota.



AL STEMPER
ST. CLOUD, MN

- Dedicated 36 years as an agriculture instructor at Foley High School, building a strong FFA program and promoting "learning by doing."
- Coached many successful CDE and LDE teams, and advised 89 State FFA Degree and 23 American Degree recipients.
- Emphasized real-life skills and valuable connections for students and their families.
- Continues to mentor new agriculture teachers and support Foley's Ag Education and Alumni programs post-retirement.



DR. CURTIS YOUNGS
AMES, IA

- Began in FFA with the Winona chapter, later serving as Minnesota State FFA Treasurer and developing key leadership skills.
- Achieved academic and professional success, now Endowed Chair of International Animal Agriculture at Iowa State University.
- Recognized for substantial contributions to agricultural education, research, and leadership, with multiple prestigious awards.
- Continues to support Minnesota FFA by sponsoring Proficiency Awards and Career Development Events, inspiring future ag leaders.

CHAPTER recognition

NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARD

1. ST. PAUL – HIGHLAND
2. SLEEPY EYE
3. GLENCOE-SILVER LAKE
4. ROCKFORD
5. EDEN VALLEY-WATKINS
6. GRANADA-HUNTLEY-EAST
7. TRACY AREA
8. CHATFIELD
9. REDWOOD VALLEY
10. HERON LAKE-OKABENA

Also advancing to National FFA Convention (in alphabetical order):
**DASSEL-COKATO, FOREST LAKE, HOWARD LAKE-WAVERLY-WINSTED,
 LAKE CITY, PARK RAPIDS, PRINCETON, RANDOLPH, ROCKFORD MIDDLE,
 ROCORI, SAUK RAPIDS-RICE, SIBLEY EAST and ZUMBROTA MAZEPPA.**

NEW FFA CHAPTERS WELCOMED

Since the last state convention, four new chapters have been chartered and were welcomed at state convention

1. DILWORTH-GLYNDON FELTON
2. HENDRICKS
3. HOPE LUTHERAN (WINONA)
4. MONTICELLO



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- Cabin Assistant (Ages 16+)

Summer Camp Paid Positions

- Counselor in Training (Ages 16+)
- Prep Cook / Dishwasher (Ages 16+)

STATE DEGREE

recipients



REGION I

Ada-Borup-West

Sarah Arends
Kiera Hegreberg
Billy Roesch

Barnesville

Blair Atteberry
Abigail Dunham
Shayna Erickson
Aiden Kent
Wesley Rotz
William Rotz
Allison Smith

Crookston

Michael Bochow
Emily Bowman
Ryan Street
Tessa Weber

Fosston

Julius Dahl
Sophia Hoefler
Alex Johnson
Timothy Perreault
Wyatt Teiken

Frazee-Vergas

Heidi Hunt

Hawley

Madison Camacho
Briley Heng
Jake Hovelsrud
Tori Hovelsrud
Hattie Jackson
Grace Meidinger
Samuel Overmoe

Perham

Ethan Brasel
Macey Minten
Emily Reed

Rothsay

Curtis Opsahl
Allison Phillips
Andrea Phillips

Thief River Falls

Brianne Ellison
Briley Olsonawski
Rebecca Vogel
Samantha Zoller

REGION II

Brainerd

Raeann F. Hanson
Addyson Malloy
Bailey M. Rosekrans
Zoey M. Smith

Grand Rapids

Erika Johnson
Zaleigh Lane
Emma Morris
Alfred Necas
Johnathan Walzak
Chris Schafer

Menahga

Leya Anderson
Vera Simonson

Park Rapids

Emma Berghuis
Natalie Berghuis
Vivienne Guida
Brooke Kritzeck
Allie Rowland
Harmony Trygstad
Rachel Ulvin
Bella Vinge

Pierz Healy

Emilie Smude

Royalton

Zackary Rudolph
Kayden Vannurden
Macy Wentland

Staples-Motley

Heidi Zimmerman

Verndale

Nicole Hess

Wadena-Deer Creek

Vanessa Haataja

REGION III

Albany

Bryce Frericks
Ellyana Sand

Alexandria

Noah Beulke
Kelsey Krohnfeldt
Piper Maland

Ashby

Ava Ellingson
Eva Olson

Battle Lake

Sophie Akerman
Nelson Hubert
Riley Johnson
Kailie Robinson
Jack Thormodson
Ada Walker
Connor Wicklund

Belgrade-Brooten-Eloso

Coby DenHartog
Mason Eckstein
Max Heieie
Parker Prentice
Aiden Radermacher
Tia Nelson

Holdingford

Korin Kostreba

Melrose

Dan Frericks
Megan Frieler
Aiden Hellermann
Gretta Kasper
Carson Middendorf
Jaiden Smith

Morris Area

Angela Albrecht
Alivia Butterfass
Jacey Lonergan
Justin Miller
Joshua Price

Osakis

Emilee Matich
Trista Sandgren
Mikkel Steinert

Paynesville

Kadyn Kulzer

Rocori

Bethany Posch

Sauk Centre

Alexandra Goerd
Haddie Walter

West Central Area

Matthew Bakken
Caleb Birdsall

REGION IV

Foley

Luke Sobania

Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted

Oliver Anderson
Grace Bayerl
Caleb Diers
Aiden Fearing
Mason Glessing
Holly Hughes
Chloe Kieser
Klein Lachermeier
Caleb Michels
Ellie Swart

Milaca

Avery Beumer
Brittany Carlson
Alayna R. Hustad
Adreanna Kaas
Allie Meyer
Autumn Olson

Robbinsdale-Armstrong

AJ Bloomer

Rockford

Josephine Frank
Eliza Kartak

Sauk Rapids-Rice

Madalyn Kronenberg

St. Paul - Highland Park

Valeria Orozco
Edric Robbins
Rose Tapia
Lillian Thuente

REGION V

BOLD

Catherine Fank
Ariana Wittman

Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart

Ava Ahlbrecht
Naomi Doerr
Marshall Haley
Brady Rudeen

Canby

Jocelynn Lacek

Cedar Mountain

Hudson Garrioch
Wyatt Gewerth
Samantha
Gruendemann
Rylee Haala
Hank Heiling
Ryder Kodet
Colton Mages
Grace Sullivan
Jaylyn Welter

Dassel-Cokato

Lainie Curlew
Lauren Hopkins

Eden Valley-Watkins

Treyce Ludwig
Cadence Meierhofer
Aidyn Brutger
Henry Lemke
Mitchell Lipinski
Abby Niewind

Edgerton

Keaton Arp
Tyler VantHof
Richie Whipple

Ellsworth

Landon Leuthold

Glencoe-Silver Lake

Sam Becker
Lauren Betcher
Kalley Christen
Caroline Dostal
Chase Duenow
Chloe Hoemberg
Austin Klostermeier
Aiden LaPlante
Brianna M Matheny
Seth Mathews
Ava Ranzau
Hiram Rettmann
Emma Salisbury
Jayden Schaefer
Christian Schwartz
Anna Sievert
Landon Smith
Tyler Templin
Megan Vinkemeier
Olivia Wanous

Hutchinson

Olivia Loncorich
Addie Luthens
Jaslyn Maki
Ely Miller
Clayton Moore
Kayla Visser

Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg

Abby Holtkamp
Aaron Jones

Kimball

Maleah Loch
Jordyn Theis

Lac Qui Parle Valley

Tygan Allpress
Daytona Bissett
Zoey Dockter
Gabrielaleasa Elias
Mykeyan Elias
Tyler Erp
Kylie Jo Geyer
Amber Hernandez
Ramsey Jibben
Kayden Kessler
Gabriel Lowry
Trina Mazawa
Noah Meyer
Christian Milbrandt
Davis Patzer
Justleen Ponun
Landon Weber
Taylor Wood
Carson Young

Litchfield

William Carlson
Riley Joyer
Ole Rogness
Samantha Turk

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Montevideo

Megan Macziewski
Brooklyn Pederson
Destiny Rittel
Gwyn Smiens

New London - Spicer

Delany Barber
Abigail Behl
KayAnna Gehrke
Reva Holmquist
Gauge Knisley
Tyna Larson
Shelby Miller
Emma Quisberg
Heidi Taunton

Redwood Valley

Alexis Altmann
Heidi Beckendorf
Aurri Johnson
Morgan Kodet
Ella O'Keefe
Addison Schmidt

Willmar

Derik Johnson
Madelyn Johnson
Laura Zupke

REGION VI**Fulda**

Gavin Gerdes

Heron Lake-Okabena

Caleb Eigenberg
Ally Kilker
Shelby Milbrath
Tyler Morphew
TJ Ostrem

Jackson County Central

Samantha Henning
Lily Johnson
Caledon Lessman
Kayleigh Nosbusch
McKade Tewes

Martin County West

Kylan Andersen
Sydney Beske
Camryn Clow
Luke Curtis
Ellie Rose Nelson
Teya Schmidtke
Barret Scholl
Lily Truesdell

Mountain Lake

Sawyer Carrison
Landen Rempel
Braxton Tollefson

Pipestone Area

Haylee Jolitz
Nathan Sutherland

Russell-Tyler-Ruthton

Joscolen Gerhardt
Autumn LaBrune
Maryann Pagel
Jilian Schoenfeld
Gwendolyn Serreyn
Lily Wiese

Sleepy Eye

Jose Castorena
Nora Coulson
Kayla Hecht
Isabelle Kunkel
Lucia Martinez Paredes
Noemi Rodriguez
Nolan Weicherding
Noah Christensen
Anna Johnson
Lily Kallevig
James Moore
Rachel Portner
Caleb Suess

Springfield

Aubree Paplow

St. James Area

Kaid Sandbo

Tracy Area

Ashton Daniels
Brianna Duscher
Brooklyn Elsen
Mallorie Hicks
Noah Knakmuhs
Marin Knott
Brok Roggatz
Katelyn Ruppert

Windom

Lizabeth Bramstedt
Grace Buckentin
Claire Veenker

Worthington

Lauryn Ahlers
Autumn Luinenburg
Claire Mahlberg
Madison Sieve
Liv Vander Kooi

REGION VII**Albert Lea**

Kaylyn M. Eide

Belle Plaine

Madison Petersen
Julia Rain

Bethlehem Academy

Luke McCrea

Blooming Prairie

Jack Bruns
Caitlyn Stangl

Cleveland

Samantha Baker
Evelyn Keltgen

Fairmont

Paige Deboer
Tyler Kurt

Gibbon - Fairfax - Winthrop

William Bastian
Matthew Burns
Eden Messerli
Abigail Willegal

Granada Huntley East Chain

Ava Donohue
Leighton Hugoson
Layla Johnson

Le Sueur Henderson

Koreyann Straub

Mankato

Delaney Kantack
Lillian Rader

Medford

Lydia Heiderscheidt
Lauren Smith

New Ulm

Tucker Berg
Megan Beranek
Calleigh Frederickson
Aiden Gieseke
Zelli Kamm
Isabel Krenz
Adam Mages
Logan Platz
Madilyn Portner
Cody Serbus
John Sondag
Lucas Sondag-Bode

Nicollet

Allee Johnson
Isaac Slater
Nick Slater
Katelyn Soost

Sibley East

Grace Brickzen
Olivia Halquist
Chloe Haslip
Brianna Kettner
Mahlrie Lundgren
Liza Reid
Lydia Rose
Gracie Straub
Paul F Taaffe
Owen Utendorfer

St. Clair

Nealy Barna
Mackenzie Levos
Daultin Lotton

Tri-City United

Nathan Goettl
Alexander Holicky
Tayla Kline
Julia Odenthal
Theodore Schatz

United South Central

Jake Cassens
Maya Hansen
Carissa Hanson
Emma Heggen
Seth Kayser
Lillian Lutteke
Addison Mithun
Jaelyn Stangler
Noah Todd
Alyssa Winkle

Waseca

Karley Hamilton
Addison Kelm
Molly Volovsek

Waterville-Elysian-Morristown

Jobb Saemrow
Cody Akemann
Kendall Couey
Kaedyn Judd
Anna Nielsen

REGION VIII**Austin**

Hunter VanReese
Jenna Hetzel
Callie Hillman

Byron

Sarah Perrotti
Maria Till

Caledonia

Tyler Hoscheit
Leo Privet

Cannon Falls

Brent Carpenter
Hilari Palodichuk
Isaac Rapp
Dawson Sanford

Chatfield

Lacey Stailey

Dover-Eyota

Nolan O'Neill
Haleigh Reiland

Farmington

Fiona Calis

Farmington

Presley Chaput
Benjamin Kluver
Savannah Visker
Elizabeth Weckop

Fillmore Central

Peter Haugerud
Conner Hovey
Cowan Keim
Audra Otto
Nathan Pfremmer
Sarah Schriever
Mara Schwarz
Claytin Wingert
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Goodhue

Nolan Mandelkow
Summer Scheele

Grand Meadow

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Hayfield

Christopher Thompson
Piper Hrtanek
Addison Murphy

Hope Lutheran

Mallory Olson

Kasson-Mantorville

Ella Aarsvold
Ambra Andrist
Diego J Espinoza
Bode Fitch
Wyatt Sullivan

Kenyon-Wanamingo

Hanna Gudknecht
Lukas Gullickson
Jay Jacobson
Cody Ostertag
Ryan Rechtzigel
Matthew Scheffler
Jett Smith
Derek Syverson
Brady Wetzstein

Kingsland - Spring Valley - Wykoff

Maxwell Erdman
Seth Howard
Ira Schmidt

Lake City

Kylie Mann

Lanesboro

Taylor Hanson

LeRoy-Ostrander

Candace Hanson
Brooke Jasper
Kaci McKenzie
Gabriel Nagel
Benita Nolt

Lewiston-Altura

Tyler Steele

Mabel-Canton

Samantha Williams

Northfield

Keith Harner
Macy Mueller

Pine Island

Josie Sauder

Plainview-Elgin-Millville

Emily McManus
Ethan Neumann
Alexis Yust

Randolph

Maria Hegland

Rushford-Peterson

Audrey Frick
Isaac Oian
Lillian West

Southland

Kendra Helgeson

St. Charles

Brianna Brogan
Elizabeth Burt
Luke Decker
Adeline Wolter

Winona

Sophie Ehlo

Zumbrota-Mazeppa

Isabelle Amsbaugh
Troy Clemenson
Edward Winters

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2025 Minnesota FFA FOUNDATION ambassadors

The Minnesota FFA Foundation's Ambassador Program offers FFA members a unique leadership opportunity to develop communication and relationship-building skills. Through this program, partners see firsthand the impact of their support, while members grow as confident advocates for agriculture and the FFA mission.

Destiny Anderson, BOLD
 Carlee Zurn, Detroit Lakes
 Lane Olson, GFW Pioneer Express
 Emma Salisbury, Glencoe-Silver Lake
 Nathan Ballman, Goodhue
 Rylee Morphew, Mora
 Samantah Reed, Mora
 Justin Miller, Morris Area
 Nolan Wulf, Morris Area
 Desirae Hendricks, Osakis
 Mikkell Steinert, Osakis
 Amelia Crossley, Osakis
 Isaac Klein, Plainview-Elgin-Millville
 Riley Shafer, Plainview-Elgin-Millville
 Poppy Rigge, Redwood Valley
 Atley Strack, Sibley East
 Charlie Hoffmann, Sleepy Eye
 Lucia Martinez Paredes, Sleepy Eye
 Addison Lang, Springfield
 Hailey Hubner, Tracy Area

MINNESOTA FFA in the numbers

220
CHAPTERS

15,902
FFA MEMBERS
and growing

360
AGRICULTURAL
EDUCATORS

40,000+
STUDENTS
studying in the seven agriculture, food,
and natural resource pathways

19
CAREER
DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

7
LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

3
INVITATIONAL EVENTS

Best Informed Greenhand,
Farm Bureau Discussion Meet, and Talent


2025 MINNESOTA FFA communications team

The 2025 Minnesota FFA Communications Team played a vital role in amplifying the excitement and impact of the Minnesota FFA State Convention.

Throughout the event, the team skillfully shared timely updates and stories on behalf of the Minnesota FFA Association, Minnesota FFA Alumni & Supporters, and the Minnesota FFA Foundation. Their work spanned social media and traditional media channels, with content ranging from award announcements and member recognition to behind-the-scenes moments and compelling video highlights. In addition to delivering consistent, high-quality messaging, the team was instrumental in capturing thousands of photos and creating video content that brought the convention to life for audiences near and far.


Their efforts were expertly guided by seasoned communications professionals Kristin Harner, Sherry Newell, and Lauren Servick, whose mentorship helped shape a dynamic and successful media presence throughout the convention.


Pictured **back row** (left to right) mentors Lauren Servick, Kristin Harner and Sherry Newell; interns Breelee Berkenpas, Liv Veiseth, Katie Ketchum and Kalie Ritter. **Front row** (left to right) interns Ella DeFrang, Gabi Joos, Ellie Sauder, Lainey Brandt, Lily Klumper and Mary Lanoue.


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2025 HONORARY FFA degree recipients



The Minnesota FFA Association relies on the support of exceptional teachers, individuals, and companies to provide life-changing experiences for its members. Individuals who have provided outstanding service on a state level to agriculture, agricultural education, or FFA are eligible for the Honorary FFA Degree. Additionally, teachers who have created exceptional agricultural education programs that motivate and inspire their students to achieve success are also eligible.

HONORARY FFA DEGREES FOR 2025 WERE PRESENTED TO:

Jessica Bergerson, state FFA officer parent
Beth Berlin, farm business management // Staples
Sara Berning, teacher // St. Michael
Josh Braford, state FFA officer parent
Stephanie Braford, state FFA officer parent
Brian and Tiffany Clemenson, state FFA officer parents
Holly Covington, advisor // New Ulm FFA
Greg Dvergsten, farm business management // Thief River Falls
Jessica Grossman, state FFA officer parent
Luke Grossman, state FFA officer parent
Leif Gunderson, state FFA officer parent
Jessica and Ted Hubbes, state FFA officer parents

Robert Ickler, advisor // Triton FFA
Stacy Leiding, farmer and supporter // Fountain
Scott Marshall, advisor // Hutchinson FFA
Jennifer McCauley, advisor // Mora FFA
Richard Reiman, farmer and supporter // Princeton
Elizabeth Rupp, advisor // Tracy FFA
Bob Sabo, Coborn's // Cold Spring
Joe Sundeen, state FFA officer parent
Andrew Steiner, advisor // Hancock FFA
Travis and Randi Stoel, state FFA officer parents
Cindy Walters, career director // Shakopee



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LEADERSHIP & Career Success in Action

EDRIC FUNK'S JOURNEY FROM MINNESOTA FFA TO THE TORO COMPANY



Preparing students for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education is central to the mission of FFA.

For many, like Edric Funk, this includes participating in a variety of **career development events**—such as dairy and livestock evaluation or soils—and **leadership development events** like

parliamentary procedure and extemporaneous speaking.

Funk exemplifies this mission as a past Minnesota FFA state president and current group vice president for the golf, grounds, and irrigation division at The Toro Company.

Funk had a front-row seat to FFA from an early age—his father was the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor in Sebeka, Minnesota. As soon as he was eligible, Funk dove into the program.

He participated in contests, maintained active Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs) like beef production, and served in leadership roles at the chapter, region, and, ultimately, the state level.

Each of these experiences taught him valuable,

transferable skills—especially adaptability. That adaptability guided him through a degree in agricultural engineering at the University of Minnesota and eventually to The Toro Company, where he began as a design engineer.

Coming from a family with a strong legacy in FFA and agriculture, Funk has seen the evolution of both—such as the shift from “Future Farmers of America” to the “National FFA Organization.” He recognizes the importance of adapting to meet changing needs, whether in education or business.

Reflecting on the parallels between FFA and The Toro Company—a long-time supporter of Minnesota FFA—he noted, “We’re a company that’s almost 111 years old. We have an amazing legacy and a huge responsibility to uphold that legacy. But at the same time, we have to evolve to meet new challenges.”



The Toro Company is a leading global provider of innovative solutions for the outdoor environment, with operations in 125 countries.

Their customers include agricultural producers, golf course managers, professional contractors, and more.

The Toro Company's values closely mirror those of FFA. "That first part of learning to do and doing to learn—at The Toro Company, we believe strongly in personal development. We believe that comes through actual experiences," Funk said.

"Then the motto ends with earning to live and living to serve. We're really fortunate at The Toro Company to have The Toro Company Foundation, which is focused on service. Our employees are actively involved in all kinds of volunteerism."

The alignment between The Toro Company's values and FFA's mission is a key reason why the company continues to support the Minnesota FFA Association.

But it's also about what FFA does for young people.

"The world is always going to have a need for strong leaders," Funk said, "and FFA does an incredible job of developing strong leaders. If we can help support an organization like that, it's going to be good for companies, for communities, and for the world."



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"The Minnesota FFA holds a close place in my heart and always will. As an individual whose career was influenced by my ag teacher's guidance and encouragement, I have been able to experience several different careers in agricultural advocacy, communications and public relations. I believe if other FFA alumni consider how the program enhanced their life or career, they might also want to consider helping the FFA Foundation, with their time, talents, or a financial contribution. It is a personal choice and to me the decision was easy."

- Robin Kinney

"I decided a few years ago to include the FFA Foundation in my estate planning in order to continue the personal and financial support that I have been donating as my career developed. As the first line of the FFA Creed states, 'I believe in the future of agriculture,' and I have been fortunate to make my living and develop my career in areas tied to animals and agriculture. Because FFA provided opportunities to me when I was growing up, I felt it was important to give back."

- Roy Johnson



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